

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: April 5, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on March 29, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Complaint Filed, Foremost Farms USA, Reedsburg, Wisconsin

On March 27, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued an Administrative Complaint against Foremost Farms USA, Reedsburg, Wisconsin, for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), the Wisconsin State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the Sauk County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a release of 600 pounds of anhydrous ammonia. Foremost Farms USA, also failed to submit a written follow up report to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as soon as practicable after the release. Ammonia is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance and an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) extremely hazardous substance with a Reportable Quantity of 100 pounds. Foremost Farms USA, notified the NRC, SERC, and LEPC approximately 27 hours after knowledge of a release of a reportable quantity of a CERCLA hazardous substance and EPCRA extremely hazardous substance. The complaint proposes a \$140,050.54 penalty for the five violations. Foremost Farms USA, has 30 days to respond to the complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Meeting, Fritz-Mar Landfill Mini #3 Site, Chicago Heights,

Illinois

On March 14, 2002, U.S. EPA representatives Larry Schmitt, Giang Van Nguyen, and Fouad Dababneh met with the City of Chicago Heights and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to discuss Fritz-Mar Landfill Mini #3 site and whether U.S. EPA or the State should take the lead. The meeting is a follow up to an earlier meeting held in December 2001 between U.S. EPA and the City in which U.S. EPA learned that the City is in the process of preparing a proposal to present to the State Pollution Control Board for closing out the site. During the March 14, 2002, meeting, the State expressed interest in taking the site back because it perceives a fair chance that the State Pollution Control Board may approve the closure of the landfill. The closure of the landfill would include a cap and a leachate collection system. During and after the closure, there would be groundwater monitoring to determine if there are any effects on groundwater sources in the area. Larry Schmitt indicated that U.S. EPA will go along with this approach and will have the State take the site back until completion of the closure. Larry Schmitt also indicated that U.S. EPA may take the site back at the end of the closure, if groundwater monitoring results indicate that there is groundwater contamination

Contacts: Giang Van Nguyen (312-886-6726)
Fouad Dababneh (312-353-3944)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Technical Assistance (Pollution Control Department), Bangkok, Thailand

From February 28-March 15, 2002, Ann Whelan from Region 5 and Mike Szerlog, an On-Scene Coordinator from Region 10, participated with the Pollution Control Department (PCD) of Thailand in the further development of their emergency preparedness and response programs. Ms. Whelan and Mr. Szerlog taught three classes, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Introduction to the Incident Command System, and Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning. The audience for these classes were National, Provincial, and Municipal planners and responders. Ms. Whelan and Mr. Szerlog evaluated two exercises put on by the Province of Samut Prakarn; a table top exercise with 50 participants; and, a full scale exercise with approximately 100 participants. CO-OP Foods of Thailand participated as the Industry player in the exercise. This was the first time the PCD and the Province had conducted an exercise and the first time they had conducted an exercise with industry. The exercises were a direct outcome of Ms. Whelan and Mr. Szerlog's first visit to Thailand. Ms. Whelan and Mr. Szerlog also met with Bangkok metropolitan authority about their contingency plan. Finally,

Ms. Whelan and Mr. Szerlog developed with PCD an eight point plan for the long range development of the Thai hazardous materials response program.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

Freshwater Spills Symposium, Cleveland, Ohio

On March 18-21, 2002, the Fourth Biennial Freshwater Spills Symposium (FWSS), co-sponsored by members of the Oil Planning and Response Section (OPRS), was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The focus of the FWSS was on planning, prevention, and response to freshwater rather than marine oil spills.

Alex Tzallas discussed Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) guidance, and ICP preparation, benefits/limitations of ICPs, Facility Response Plan (FRP) requirements, ICP requirements, ICP preparation, FRP preparation, FRP review process, FRP five year review process, FRP/ICP deficiencies, Agency expectations, and enforcement. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Betty Lavis discussed the "Indiana Harbor Canal Pilot Project" removal actions to clean up oil pollution and reduce spills into a sensitive waterway, and OSC Charles Brasher presented "Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making: U.S. EPA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Demonstration Project in Ukraine" which highlighted the importance for oil companies to follow western style EIA procedures in new and emerging markets. Ann Whelan moderated the Phytoremediation session and Sheila Calovich the Planning and Preparedness session. OSC Jim Augustyn participated in a panel discussion of Counter-Terrorism issues. Several other regional presentations were also part of the Symposium.

There were approximately 350 attendees. Attendees' response was extremely positive, and they found the seminar and the informational handouts informative and helpful.

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)
Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Training, Lake County, Indiana

Civil Investigator Joe Kawecky, a member of the Lake County, Indiana, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) coordinated with Steve Ostrodka, Field Services Section, to arrange for the U.S. EPA training team in Cincinnati, Ohio, to provide two training courses to Lake County Haz Mat personnel during the month of March. Forty firemen from several Lake County Departments were trained in Air Sampling techniques. Also, 15 Sheriff's SWAT team members were trained in the 40 hour hazardous

materials response course along with 21 firefighters, who will

augment the Lake County Haz Mat Group. Future additional training is currently being planned.

Contact: Joe Kawecki (312-886-7236)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Area Planning, St. Paul, Minnesota

On July 24, 2002, the Wakota CAER group (a coalition of industrial emergency responders) will perform a spill response drill using equipment previously cached along the Mississippi River per the sub-area spill prevention and response plan. This will complete the drills required to test the effectiveness of the spill response strategies detailed in the sub-area plan. This exercise also includes the first commitment by industry to provide personnel and equipment for mutual assistance. The Wakota group is donating 7,000 feet of boom and miscellaneous equipment to be staged and maintained at six locations along the shoreline between the cities of St. Paul and Hastings, the most industrial and sensitive part of the metropolitan Mississippi River. This represents a sizeable financial commitment, as the cost of the materials and equipment alone is in excess of \$100,000. A letter received from Steve Lee, Supervisor, Emergency Response Team, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on March 26, 2002, states - "Consider this a pat on the back and a hearty thanks to our Federal and Upper Mississippi River Basin friends on a job well done on a sub-area project over these many years. Your work made this happen."

Contacts: Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)
Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

Recognition (Rosita Clarke-Moreno), Presenting the Five Year Review Training, State of Michigan

In a March 28, 2002, e-mail to Wendy Carney, James Mayka, William Muno, Rosita Clarke, and Claudia Kerbawy, George Carpenter of the Michigan Superfund Section of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality wrote the following:

"The Michigan Superfund Section wants you to know that we greatly appreciate the effort Rosita Clarke made in presenting the Five Year Review Training yesterday. We had 22 people in attendance and Rosita made an excellent presentation. She was well prepared, provided the new guidance document, had a good slide show with copies for us, and was able to explain the changes and increase in complexity of the process. It was especially timely since we have one review in preparation and will be starting another soon. We are also happy to know there is a coordinator available for all aspects of the program. Great job, thank you

very much. Enjoy. Carp."

Contact: Rosita Clarke-Moreno (312-886-7251)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers